THE 26th ANNUAL

GREAT AMERICAN TOY TEST

WHAT ARE TOYS?

The word “toy” comes from a Scandinavian word meaning “little tool.” This term could not be more appropriate. Play is not just the way a child passes time, it is in a profound way a child’s “work”-- and the “tools” of that work are toys. We have learned some definite things in the 26 years of the Great American Toy Test. First, kids 5 and under are not much different than kids that age were fifty years ago. Little kids have pretty much the same interests all kids have had for generations. Second, today’s kids are far more technology-savvy than previous generations. The toys your kids play with today should encompass this spectrum: simple, traditional toys that have entertained kids for decades, as well as technology and computer-based gadgetry that will help them get ahead in the 21st century.

HOW THE TOY TEST WORKS

More than 90 major toy makers entered toys in this year’s Great American Toy Test. Each toy maker supplied us with dozens of copies of each toy, so we could assemble near identical sets of toys. We received about 6,300 toys, which made comparable sets of about 100 toys per set. The sets were shipped to day-care and latchkey kid centers in Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, Atlanta, Detroit, Tampa-St. Petersburg, Cleveland, Miami, Phoenix, Denver, St. Louis, Baltimore, Indianapolis, Charlotte, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, Grand Rapids, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Wilkes-Barre, Austin, Fresno, Charleston-Huntington, Lexington, Flint, Ft. Myers, Roanoke, Des Moines, Tucson, Syracuse, Rochester, Paducah, Shreveport, Chattanooga, Cedar Rapids, Tri-Cities, Waco, Evansville, El Paso, Lincoln, Lansing, Augusta, Reno, Peoria, Monterey, Boise, Columbus, La Crosse, Bakersfield, Wichita Falls, Sioux City, Terre Haute, Mason City, Binghampton, Sherman, and Clarksburg. Kids 2 years to 12 years-old played with the toys for three weeks while their teachers and supervisors observed. The toys were graded by the adults and kids on these criteria: quality, durability, ease of assembly, maintenance, short-term interest, long-term interest, educational value, safety and just plain old fun.

SPECIAL NOTE

Each year, a number of agencies, organizations, groups and individuals make announcements regarding the acceptability of certain toys and the safety of others. This year, as in others, there may be a toy or toys on our list that comes up on someone’s list of unacceptable or unsafe toys. Some parents might have ethical, moral, religious or philosophical objections to some toys because they are war-related or seem to perpetuate gender stereotypes. Some of the toys we tested fall into these categories. We think that parents should choose toys based on their own personal standards. The Great American Toy Test makes no judgments about any toys except in the case where a toy consistently proves itself to be unsafe during the test. No such toys proved themselves unsafe in this year’s Great American Toy Test.

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THE "FABULOUS 14" TOP TOYS

THE SMARTGLOBE
by OREGON SCIENTIFIC
AGES FIVE AND UP
$100

Thirty activities provide interactive learning including country capitals, currency conversion and national anthems. With its wireless stylus and high quality sound, it can be customized for three age groups beginning at age five, right into college. Up to four people can play at the same time. To keep it current, connect it to your ccomputer and update it on the internet.

V.SMILE POCKET
by V-TECH
AGES FIVE AND UP
$90

Ths is a go anywhere portable high resolution video learning system, but can also be directly connected to your TV. Here's where video game mania meets learning skills. It plays all of the more than 20 V.SMILE Smartridges each containing exciting games that teach school skills ranging from spelling and math to science and music.

READ WITH ME DVD
by FISHER-PRICE
AGES THREE TO SEVEN
$85

This is an animated interactive learning system complete with a wireless, child-friendly remote. This amazing toy teaches a love of reading through story comprehension and vocabulary. At significant moments in the story, children are encouraged to stay and play on the page where they can learn the meaning of new words. They can also respond to questions about the characters and key story elements.

LEAPSTER L-MAX
by LEAPFROG
AGES FOUR TO TEN
$100

It's portable but can also be plugged into your TV for dual screen learning action. Your child interacts with the handheld screen but can also see the learning unfold on his or her TV screen. As they learn to write letters on their handheld screen, those letters then appear on the TV, starring in animated stories that teach math, reading, spelling, science, writing, art, music and logic.

PIXEL CHIX
by MATTEL
AGES SIX AND UP
$30

This is a hand-held, high tech, interactive miniature electronic doll house that also contains an electronic "girl friend" who asks the child's advice about life decisions. What should she wear? Who should she go out with? What should she have for dinner? In return, the child gets feedback, fun, games and many other surprises. And, if you connect your Pixel Chix to another child's Pixel Chix, you've got amazing interactive fun.

LITTLE PEOPLE LEARNING ZOO
by FISHER-PRICE
AGES TWO TO FIVE
$35

As kids play on the interactive zoo mat, they learn letters, animals, animal sounds and matching. The set contains more than two dozen figures; one for each letter of the alphabet. Kids also answer questions for a total learning experience on this very basic but high tech toy that several chilren can use at one time.

SHAKE & GO SPEEDWAY
by FISHER-PRICE
AGES 3 AND UP
$40

Shake the cars to rev 'em up as the race goes on. This incredible playset actually counts laps and determines the winner. Infrared technology allows the track "announcer" to give a play by play of each race. This sturdy toy comes complete with track and two cars but other cars can be added.

"FABULOUS 14"

In no particular order... the children chose these as the most popular for 2005/2006. These were the highest scoring toys with our testers; an extraordinary accomplishment. (Toymakers provided the suggested retail prices. May be purchased for less at stores.)

BABY ANNABELLL
ZAPF CREATION
AGES THREE AND UP
$40

This is an incredibly lifelike infant. Like a real infant, Baby Annabell demands love, care and responsibility. She babbles, laughs, cries and sleeps; opening and closing her eyes in reaction to sounds around her, including you child's lullabyes.

BELLA DANCERELLA POPSTAR
SPIN MASTER
AGES THREE TO EIGHT
$25

On the dance mat, kids learn all the moves needed to be a superstar as they sing and dance with Bella and her friends. That's done as they follow along on the televison with the included forty-five minute DVD that's loaded with special features. The studio includes a numbered step mat and real microphone headset.

DISNEY CD & GRAPHIC
KARAOKE SYSTEM
FROM DISNEY ELECTRONICS
AGES SIX AND UP
$40

Kids just loved this high quality sing along machine. With the included cables, you can put the lyrics up on your own TV screen. This system has echo effects and can handle one or two microphones. It can also play regular CD's for listening enjoyment.

TWISTER MOVES
FROM MILTON BRADLEY
AGES EIGHT AND UP
$20

This is a game where you compete by twisting, dancing and moving to the music. Listen to the commands of the jammin' DJ's and see if you can keep up. There are enough mats for up to four dancers and a whopping hundred and forty-four dance sessions provided on three included CD's.

NERF WEATHER BLITZ
ALL CONDITIONS FOOTBALL
FROM HASBRO
SIX AND UP
$10

This kid-sized, all conditions football is as tough as the conditions kids play in. In the lake or pool, even in the worst weather: rain, mud, ice or snow, the raised finger grooves and end surfaces make this ball easy to throw and easy to catch.

BIG SCREEN 20-Q
FROM RADICA
AGES EIGHT AND UP
$40

This high tech version of Twenty Questions contains a logic chip that claims to read your mind. You think of something. The Big Screen Twenty-Q asks you questions. If it can't tell you what you're thinking of in no more than twenty questions, you win. Amazingly, it usually does tell you what you were thinking of.

DORA THE EXPLORER
PLUG AND PLAY T-V GAME
FROM JAKKS PACIFIC
AGES FIVE AND UP
$20

Simply plug it into your own TV and travel with Dora and friends into the natural world. There you use interactive decision making to help the environment; scoring points for protecting plants, animals, water, land and air, having fun and learning all the way.

THE BEST OF THE REST

On the following pages are the rest of our toys that scored so well we also confidently recommend them for your consideration. They are surefire winners too! We do this to make a very important point. There are more than 100,000 toys on the market. Some are brand new. Others have been around for generations. Above and beyond our Top Fourteen Toys, the best toys for your little ones may also be found in these categories as well. We want to give you the widest range of products and price ranges to pick from. They come in all price ranges which should indicate that prices does not necessarily have a lot to do with whether a toy is or is not a hit with children.

DOLLS, STUFFED ANIMALS, PLUSHES, PUPPETS AND INTERACTIVE CHARACTERS

These toys literally become a child's friend. It's that one-on-one relationship that makes these toys so endearing.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Silly Sentences Junior Edition	Anton Games/Packaging Network	6 to 12	$ 30
Dress 'N Dance Adventure Dora	Fisher-Price Friends	3 and up	$ 30
Singin' Buggy Bunch	Fisher-Price Friends	2 and up	$ 30
Tumble Time Tigger	Fisher-Price Friends	18 mo. and up	$ 35
Ripped Pants Sponge Bob	Fisher-Price Friends	4 and up	$ 30
Little Mommy Dolls	Fisher-Price/Mattel	18 mo. and up	$ 18
Dragon	Folkmanis	8 and up	$ 50
Mommy's Magic Cell	Goldberger	2 and up	$ 20
Furreal Friends Scamps: My Playful Pup	Hasbro	4 and up	$ 50
Bratz Rock Angels-Chloe	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 20
Bratz Rock Angles-Jade	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 20
Bratz Rock Angels-Yasmin	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 20
Bratz Rock Angels-Sasha	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 20
Bratz Rock Angels Funky Fashion Makeover Heads	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 30
Bratz Babyz Boyz-Cameron	MGA Entertainment	4 and up	$ 8
Bratz Rock Angels Recording Studio	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 25
Bratz Rock Angels Concert Stage With Roxxi	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 50
Rescue Pets	MGA Entertainment	3 and up	$ 17
Barbie & Me	Mattel	3 and up	$ 20
Barbie as Princess Annika (Magic of Pegasus)	Mattel	3 and up	$ 20
Brietta the Pegasus Styling Head	Mattel	3 and up	$ 30
Barbie Fashion Fever Dolls	Mattel	5 and up	$ 10
Barbie Fairytopia Jewel Dolls	Mattel	3 and up	$ 17
Barbie Fashion Fever Dolls	Mattel	5 and up	$ 10
My Scene Goes Hollywood-Nolee	Mattel	6 and up	$ 20
My Scene Goes Hollywood-Madison	Mattel	6 and up	$ 20
My Scene Goes Hollywood-Chelse	Mattel	6 and up	$ 20
My Scene Goes Hollywood-Barbie	Mattel	6 and up	$ 20
Teen Trend Dolls-Courtney	Mattel	6 and up	$ 40
Teen Trend Dolls-Gabby	Mattel	6 and up	$ 40
Teen Trend Dolls-Kainna	Mattel	6 and up	$ 40
Pound Puppies-Here Puppy Puppy	Mattel	3 and up	$ 35
Barbie Prince Aidan (Magic of Pegasus)	Mattel	3 and up	$ 18
Ballet Studio Doll Theater	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 50
Karina Grace Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 15-16
Anna Sophia Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 16
Dancing Dilemma Doll Book	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 20/set
Doll's Stable	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 75
Missy The Horse	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 24
Olivia Hope Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 16
Brianna Joy Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 16
Lily Rose Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 16
Horse Sense Doll Book	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 20/set
Doll Sleeper Sofa	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 20
Doll Sleeping Bag	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 10

DOLLS, STUFFED ANIMALS, PLUSHES, PUPPETS AND INTERACTIVE CHARACTERS (continued)

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Taylor Angelique Doll	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 16
Two Pet Baskets	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 10
It's Hard To Say Goodbye Doll Book	Only Hearts Club	3 and up	$ 20/set
Magic Glow Doodle Bear	Play Along Toys	3 and up	$ 25
Care Bears Share-A-Story	Play Along Toys	3 and up	$ 40
Cupcakes Candy Sprinkles Doll	Radica	4 and up	$ 10
Cupcakes Cutie Fruity	Radica	4 and up	$ 10
Cupcakes Tea Party	Radica	4 and up	$ 20

LET'S PRETEND & FANTASY TOYS

Kids use these to role-play , learn social skills (such as sharing and cooperation) or find career interests. This is, by far, the most diverse group of toys with a myriad of themes ranging from nurturing, cooperation to conflict and combat, reality to fantasy.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Tamagotchi V2	Bandai America	8 and up	$ 15
Raise The Roof Barnyard	Parent's Magazine Child's Play/Battat	3 and up	$ 50
Baby Gymtastics Play Wall	Fisher-Price	6 mo. to 3	$ 55
Roll-a-Rounds Drop & Roar Dinosaur	Fisher-Price	6 mo. and up	$ 35
Laugh & Learn Musical Learning Chair	Fisher-Price	1 to 3	$ 30
Laugh & Learn Stride-to-Ride Learning Walker	Fisher-Price	9 mo. and up	$ 35
Loving Family Twin Time Dollhouse	Fisher-Price	3 and up	$ 60
Elmo's Musical Peek-A-Boo Gym	Fisher-Price Friends	6 mo. and up	$ 40
Check-up Time Elmo	Fisher-Price Friends	18 mo. and up	$ 20
Dora's Talking Kitchen	Fisher-Price Friends	2 and up	$ 80
Total Make-Over Angelica	Fisher-Price Friends	4 and up	$ 30
Weebles Weebly Wobbly Treehouse and Figures	Playskool/Hasbro	18 mo. and up	$ 30
Bulls Eye Bounce and Roll	Playskool/Hasbro	3 and up	$ 35
Cool Crew Talkn' Toolbench	Playskool/Hasbro	3 and up	$ 35
ChatNow	Tiger Electronics/Hasbro	8 and up	$ 75
Star Wars Darth Vader Voice Changer	Hasbro	5 and up	$ 30
Transformers Starscream Cyberton Supreme	Transformers/Hasbro	5 and up	$ 50
Crawlerpillar	Insect Lore	4 and up	$ 30
Polly Pocket Cash Register	KIDdesigns	3 and up	$ 25
Barbie Hug N' Heal Pet Doctor	KIDdesigns	3 and up	$ 30
Matchbox Buried Treasure Playset	Matchbox	3 and up	$ 20
See Me" Play Tunnel	Pacific Play Tents	2 and up	$ 35
"I See U" Tunnel	Pacific Play Tents	2 and up	$ 35
Jungle Safari Tent & Tunnel	Pacific Play Tents	3 and up	$ 70
Star Dressing Room	Pacific Play Tents	3 and up	$ 60
All Aboard 6' Train Tunnel	Pacific Play Tents	2 and up	$ 40
Rad Racer Pit Stop Tent	Pacific Play Tents	3 and up	$ 70
Girl Tech Password Journal	Girl Tech/Radica	8 and up	$ 20
Bob The Builder Talking Toolbelt	Learning Curve/RC2	2 and up	$ 15
Hide & Seek Safari	R&R Games	4 and up	$ 35
Stick Pony	Tek Nek Toys	3 and up	$ 15
Spy Night Patrol - Listener	Wild Planet	6 and up	$ 15-20
Spy Light Hand	Wild Planet	6 and up	$ 5-7
Roboraptor	WowWee	8 and up	$119
Robopet	WowWee	8 and up	$ 90

THE GREAT AMERICAN TOY TEST

GAMES & PUZZLES

Games and puzzles represent a unique part of the toy world. They are often a link between playmates, parents, grandparents and other family members. Games and puzzles teach thinking as well as social skills, such as strategy, problem solving, competitiveness, cooperation and communication.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Silly Sentences Junior Edition	Anton Games/Packaging Network	6 to 12	$ 30
Baffle Gab	Word Salt	8 and up	$ 30
I Spy In Common	Briarpatch	7 and up	$ 18
I See You	Briarpatch	3 to 6	$ 13
Maya & Miguel Word Scramble	Briarpatch	7 and up	$ 20
Count Across	Cadaco	6 to 10	$ 20
Whoonu	Cranium	8 and up	$ 17
Fractions Supreme	Learning Resources/Discovery	6 and up	$ 15
Cogno: Deep Worlds	DoubleStar	8 and up	$ 30
Alfredo's Food Fight	Fundex	4 to 10	$ 20
Attacktix & Booster Pack	Hasbro	5 and up	$ 10
Buckaroo	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	4 and up	$ 16
CandyLand DVD	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	3 to 6	$ 30
CandyLand Dora The Explorer	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	3 and up	$ 10
Sponge Bob Life In Bikini Bottom	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	9 and up	$ 20
Operation Simpsons	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	6 and up	$ 20
Pretty Pretty Princess Cinderella	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	5 and up	$ 13
Wild Adventures in Mini-Golf	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	6 and up	$ 40
Empire State 3D Puzzle	Milton Bradley/Hasbro	12 and up	$ 20
Clue Mysteries	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	8 and up	$ 20
Electronic Guesstures	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	12 and up	$ 25
Monopoly 70th	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	8 and up	$ 40
Monopoly Jr. Disney Princess	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	5 to 8	$ 13
Pictionary	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	12 and up	$ 25
Shout The Music	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	13 and up	$ 20
Sorry - Madagascar	Parker Brothers/Hasbro	6 and up	$ 18
Star Wars Monopoly	Parker Brothers	8 and up	$ 30
Trivial Pursuit Nickelodeon Edition	Parker Brothers	8 and up	$ 20
Bop It Blast	Tiger/Hasbro	8 and up	$ 20
Dream Life	Tiger/Hasbro	8 to 12	$ 40
MX Dirt Rebel	Tiger/Hasbro	8 to 12	$ 40
Star Wars Light Saber	Tiger/Hasbro	8 and up	$ 50
6ix-Sided Bug Puzzle	Insect Lore	4 and up	$ 15
Foam Play Croquet	International Playthings	5 and up	$ 39
Poppin' Puzzler	International Playthings	5 and up	$ 18
The Story Telling Game	International Playthings	5 and up	$ 15
Electronic Quiz Quest	International Playthings	8 and up	$ 20
Skeletons in the Closet	Learning Resources	7 and up	$ 25
Bratz Rockx Angelz Fun on TV Guitar Game	MGA Entertainment	7 and up	$ 25
Sentence Says Game	Marban Industries	7 and up	$ 30
LONPOS 101 Pyramid 7 Rectangle Game	LONPOS/Mic-O-Mic Americas	8 and up	$ 17
You're Pulling My Leg!	Morningstar Games	13 and up	$ 13-18
You're Pulling My Leg! Jr.	Morningstar Games	9 and up	$ 20-24
Pet Detectives	Morningstar Games	7 and up	$ 13-18
Snorta	Out Of The Box Publishing	8 and up	$ 20
Pacardy	Patch Products	8 and up	$ 15
20Q Challenge	Radica Games	8 and up	$ 30
Play TV Baseball 3	Radica Games	8 and up	$ 40
Skannerz Racerz	Radica Games	6 to 10	$ 20
Rubber Horse Shoe Set	Schylling	3 and up	$ 10
Scene It? Harry Potter Edition	Screenlife	8 and up	$ 40
Eco-Ranger: Animal Kingdom Game	Snap TV Games	6 to 9	$ 25

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GAMES & PUZZLES (continued)

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Tangle Jr. Glow In The Dark Game	Tangle	3 and up	$ 2
Coleco Player Video Games System	Coleco/Techno Source	5 and up	$ 20
Sudoku	Techno Source	8 and up	$ 20
Disney Checkers & Tic Tac Toe	USAopoly	5 and up	$ 10
Disney Princess Checkers & Tic Tac Toe	USAopoly	5 and up	$ 10
Disney Princess Bingo	USAopoly	5 and up	$ 10
Disney Princess 3 in 1 Game	USAopoly	5 and up	$ 10
Winniw The Pooh Dominoes	USAopoly	3 and up	$ 10
Winniw The Pooh Checkers & Tic Tac Toe	USAopoly	4 and up	$ 10
Winniw The Pooh 3 in 1 Card Game Set	USAopoly	4 and up	$ 10
Disney Dominoes	USAopoly	3 and up	$ 10
Rudolph The Red Nose Reindeer Monopoly	USAopoly	8 and up	$ 36
The Simpsons Treehouse Of Horror Monopoly	USAopoly	8 and up	$ 36
National Parks Campfire Games: Checkers & Tic Tac Toe	USAopoly	6 and up	$ 20
Esphera 360 degree 60 piece Globe	Warren Industries	6 to 14	$ 15
Esphera 360 degree 540 piece	Warren Industries	12 and up	$ 15
Duel Masters Trading Card Game	Wizards of the Coast	10 and up	$ 10-14
Codename: Kids Next Door Trading Card Game	Wizards of the Coast	6 to 8	$ 9-13
Baffle Gab Game	Word Salt	8 and up	$ 30
The Ladybug Game	Zobmondo!! Entertainment	3 to 7	$ 12

ARTS & CRAFTS

These are toys of self-expression and creativity, allowing kids to communicate, through the arts.

Italian Easel	Battat	8 and up	$ 40
Girlfitti Digital Scrapbook	Crayola/Binney & Smith	6 to 9	$ 20
Color Explosion (2 colors)	Crayola/Binney & Smith	6 and up	$ 8
Color, Craft & Carry	Discovery Toys	4 and up	$ 20
Pixter Multi-Media System	Fisher-Price	4 and up	$ 80
Play-Doh Doggie Doctor	Play-Doh/Hasbro	3 and up	$ 13
Lite Brite FX: Flash Art	Lite Brite/Hasbro	5 to 8	$ 20
Disney Dream Sketcher	Jazwares	4 and up	$ 54
Pretend & Place Trace & Learn Cake	Learning Resources	3 and up	$ 25
Make Your Own Valentines	Made By Hands	4 to 10	$ 10
Etch A Sketch Wired	Ohio Art	4 and up	$ 20

EDUCATIONAL TOYS

These toys teach various academic skills: reading, math, science, biology, geography, etc. in a fun way.

The Amazing Dinosaur Plant	DuneCraft	3 and up	$ 8
Play$_2$O	Dynatech Action	4 and up	$ 15
Teddy (Teaching Bear)	Educational Insights	3 and up	$ 20
View -Master Super Sound 3D Viewer	View-Master/Fisher-Price	3 and up	$ 10
Dr. Dreadful's Freak Food Lab	Funrise	5 and up	$ 25
Leap Stages Infant Learning System	LeapFrog	birth to 18 mo.	$ 35
Learn-Around Playground	LeapFrog	6 mo. to 3	$ 60
My First LeapPad Learning System	LeapFrog	3 to 5	$ 30
Easy Reader Phonics Program	LeapFrog	Pre-K to 1st grade	$ 28
Montgomery Schoolhouse Shape Sorter	Maple Landmark	1.5 and up	$ 17
Barbie Exploring the World	Oregon Scientific	5 and up	$ 35
Snappy Sounds Woof	Silver Dolphin Books	3 to 5	$ 13
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star	Silver Dolphin Books	0 to 4	$ 13
Totally Dinosaurs	Silver Dolphin Books	8 to 12	$ 17
Story Reader Electronic Book	Story Reader	3 to 8	$ 25
National Geographic Dinosaurs & Fossils	Thames & Kosmos	8 and up	$ 30
Creative Cosmetics	Thames & Kosmos	12 and up	$ 60
Write and Learn Letterbook	Vtech	3 and up	$ 20
Write and Learn Lightboard	Vtech	4 and up	$ 25

CARS, TRUCKS, PLANES AND TRAINS

Provides an adult world fantasy by allowing kids to pretend to do one of the key things adults do: drive.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Power Rangers SPD Patrol Cycles	Bandai America	4 and up	$ 11
Matville Double Play Set	Discovery Toys	3 to 8	$ 23
Matville Vehicles	Discovery Toys	3 to 8	$ 11
Rock Crawler	Nylint/Funrise	5 and up	$ 40
Tonka Chuck & Friends	Tonka/Hasbro	2 and up	$ 15
Fly Wheels Basic Launcher	Jakks Pacific	8 and yp	$ 5
Fly Wheels RC	Jakks Pacific	8 and up	$ 20
Kids Next Door K.O.L.A.S.S.A.L.I.N.E.R.	KIDdesigns	5 and up	$ 30
My First RC Inchworm - Buggies	Kid Galaxy	3 to 5	$ 20
My First RC GoGo Auto	Kid Galaxy	2 to 5	$ 20
KG Racer - Baby Carriage	Kid Galaxy	5 to 10	$ 12
Bigfoot Ragin' Monster Truck	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$ 55
Matchbox Mega Rigs Dino Adventure	Matchbox	3 and up	$ 43
Hot Wheels Acceleracer Accweledrome	Hot Wheels/Mattel	5 and up	$ 60
TYCO R/C Shell Shocker	Tyco/Mattel	8 and up	$ 80
Line Chaserz	Overbreak	3 and up	$ 15
Bob The Builder R/C Scrambler	Learning Curve/RC2	3 and up	$ 20
Thomas Wooden Railway			
Sir Topham Hatt Figure 8 Set	Learning Curve/RC2	2 and up	$ 50
Take Along Thomas			
Center Island Quarry Playset	Learning Curve/RC2	2 and up	$ 30
Air Hogs R/C Zero Gravity	Spinmaster	8 and up	$ 70
Solar Racers Mini Vehicles	Uncle Milton Industries	4 and up	$ 10

SPORTS, RIDE-ON AND OUTDOOR TOYS

Teach physical skills and important social skills such as sportsmanship, cooperation, strategy and obeying rules. Also included in this section are toys more appropriately played with outside.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Hog Wild	Parent's Magazine/Child's Play/Battat	18 mo. & up	$ 40
ESPN Shot Block Basketball	Fisher-Price	5 and up	$ 70
Power Wheels Cadillac Escalade	Fisher-Price	3 and up	$290
Simon Says Sit 'n Spin	Playskool/Hasbro	3 and up	$ 20
Star Party Ribbon Dancer	International Playthings	5 and up	$ 17
Fold 2 Go XL Trike	Radio Flyer	1.5 and up	$ 60
Classic Rock & Bounce Pony	Radio Flyer	9 mo. to 3	$ 60
Twist Trike	Radio Flyer	2 to 7	$ 60
Deluxe Canopy Steering Trike	Radio Flyer	2 to 5	$ 79
Spider-Man Chopper Trike	Tek Nek Toys	2.5 and up	$ 40
Heart 2 Heart Chopper Trike	Tek Nek Toys	2.5 amd up	$ 40

MUSIC, DANCE, RHYTHM AND VIDEO

These toys can become the beginning of a lifelong love of music. Kids who excel at music often excel in school. This year we've added the burgeoning category of video cameras for kids to this section. As you can see, these toys are as much entertainment and education tools as they are toys.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
American Idol Digital Camcorder	Digital Blue	8 and up	$ 99
Star Station	Fisher-Price	3 and up	$ 60
VideoNow XP Player	VideoNow/Hasbro	6 and up	$ 60
Bratz Plugged In Digital Video Camera	MGA Entertainment	6 and up	$100
ATC-1000 Hands Free Camera	Oregon Scientific	8 and up	$ 20
Barbie Digital Camera	Oregon Scientific	6 and up	$ 40

THE GREAT AMERICAN TOY TEST

CONSTRUCTION STUFF

Impart physical and mental skills to children in a fun way: mechanics, design, creativity and expression.

Toy Name	*Manufacturer*	*Age Range*	*Price*
Formulate-4	Discovery Toys	3 to 5	$ 25
K'NEX Pirate Ship Park	K'NEX	9 and up	$ 50
Kid K'NEX Fun Wheels Rovin' Rollers	K'NEX	3 and up	$ 20
Flex K'NEX Construction Squad	K'NEX	6 and up	$ 30
LEGO Mountain Climber	LEGO	1 and up	$ 25
LEGO Thomas' Load & Carry Set	LEGO	2 to 6	$ 30
LEGO Wild Hunters	LEGO	6 and up	$ 30
LEGO DUPLO Fire Station	LEGO	2 to 5	$ 30
LEGO Fire Station	LEGO	5 and up	$ 30
LEGO Police Station	LEGO	5 and up	$ 70
LEGO Iron Predator vs. T-Rex	LEGO	7 to 14	$ 40
LEGO Vladek's Dark Forest	LEGO	8 and up	$100
Lego Battle of Metru Nu Bionicle	LEGO	7 and up	$ 80
LEGO ARC-170 Starfighter	LEGO	6 and up	$ 40
LEGO Tiny Turbos - RX Sprinter Racers	LEGO	6 and up	$ 4
Bob The Builder Clik Bricks	Learning Curve/RC2	2 and up	$ 15
Battle Crawlers Arena Playset	Wild Planet	6 and up	$ 15-20

IMPORTANT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

CHOOSE AGE-APPROPRIATE TOYS -- Everyone likes to think his or her child is smarter and more capable than other kids of the same age. Don't fool yourself. If a toy is beyond the child's mental or physical ability, it could end up presenting a significant safety hazard to the child. It could also be boring, or not much fun. Be wise and respect the age label on the package. These age ratings were determined by experts with your child's best interests and safety in mind.

KEEP BIG KIDS' TOYS AWAY FROM LITTLE KIDS -- Little kids (3 and under) love to put things in their mouths. That's why you should never allow older kids' toys to be in an area where little kids can get hold of them. Many older kids' toys have small parts on which a young child could choke. The complicated nature of older kids' toys often makes them hazardous to tots.

BEWARE OF BROKEN TOYS -- Though a working toy can be perfectly safe, it can be extremely dangerous when it's broken. Typically, broken toys can become swallowing or choking hazards (when a small part breaks off) or cutting hazards (when an edge becomes sharp or juts out). Once a toy is broken, carefully check for hazards and take it away from the child if it does indeed pose a hazard.

REPORT DANGEROUS TOYS -- The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission is the nation's watchdog for unsafe toys. This agency has the legal authority to inspect, evaluate and recall toys which may be unsafe. Consumers are encouraged to contact the Consumer Product Safety Commission by phone or online. Toll Free 1 (800) 638-CPSC / www.cpsc.gov.

ORDER TOY SAFETY PUBLICATIONS OR READ THEM ONLINE FROM THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

Telephone - (800) 638-CPSC / Internet - http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/toy_sfy.html

ADDITIONAL TOY INFORMATIONON THE INTERNET

The Toy Industry Association - The official web site of the association of toy makers throught the United States. http://www.toy-tia.org/content/navigationmenu/parents/Toy_Safety/Toy_Safety.htm

Oppenheim - A widely quoted independent consumer review of children's toys. http://www.toyportfolio.com/

Toy Tips is an independent voice for child development. Since its inception in 1991, Toy Tips' provides researched information on toys that build skills and enhance a child's development. http://toytips.com

Dr. Toy - Product suggestions and generic toy information from Dr. Toy aka Stevanne Auerbach http://www.drtoy.com

Public Interest Research Group - This is a consumer activist site called Toy Safety Net. http://www.toysafety.net

Baby Center - Go to site's search engine and look for "toys." http://www.babycenter.com

Special Needs Kids - This is the nation's central source on toys for chidren with special needs. http://www.lekotek.org

CAN'T FIND IT?

Here's how to contact the consumer relations offices of the toymakers who participated in this year's Toy Test. We've listed the toy company, its telephone information line and its internet worldwide web site (all begin with http://)

Action Products Intl.
(800) 772-2846
www.apii.com
Anton Games/Packaging Network
(877) 745-5973
www.sillysentences.com
Aurora World
(888) 287-6722
www.auroragift.com
Baby Einstein
(800) 793-1454
www.babyeinstein.com
Baffle Gab/Word Salt
(888) 385-2498
www.bafflegabgame.com
Bandai America
(714) 816-9500
www.bandai.com
Battat
(800) 822-8828
www.battatco.com
Briarpatch
(973) 376-7002
www.briarpatch.com
Cadaco
(800) 621-5426
www.cadaco.com
Child's Play/Parent's Magazine
(212) 222-0120
www.childsplay.com
Cranium
(877) 272-6486
www.cranium.com
Crayola/Binney & Smith
(800) 272-9652
www.crayola.com
Digital Blue
(770) 579-0501
www.playdigitalblue.com
Discovery Toys
(800) 341-8698
www.discoverytoysinc.com
Dowling Magnets
(800) 624-6381
www.dowlingmagnets.com
DoubleStar
(866) 462-6466
www.cogno.com
DuneCraft
(800) 306-4168
www.dunecraft.com
Dynatech Action
(800) 359-6088
www.dynatechaction.com
Esphera 360
(800) 477-2157
www.esphera360.com
Educational Insights
(800) 995-4436
www.educationalinsights.com
FIKI Sports
(310) 257-2900
www.fikisports.com
Fisher-Price
(800) 432-5437
www.fisher-price.com
Folkmanis
(800) 654-8922
www.folkmanis.com
Fundex Games
(800) 486-9787
www.fundexgames.com
Goldberger Doll
(800) 452-3655
www.goldbergerdoll.com
Hasbro
(800) 327-864
www.hasbro.com
Insect Lore
(800) 548-3284
www.insectlore.com
International Playthings
(800) 445-8347
www.intplay.com
JAKKS Pacific
(877) 875-2557
www.jakkspacific.com
Jazwares
(954) 845-0800
www.jazwares.com
KIDdesigns
(888) 867-8697
www.kiddirect.com
Kid Galaxy
(800) 816-1135
www.kidgalaxy.com
K'NEX
(800) 543-5639
www.knex.com
LeapFrog
(800) 701-5327
www.leapfrog.com
Milton-Bradley
(888) 836-7025
www.hasbro.com
Parker Brothers
(888) 836-7025
www.hasbro.com
Parent's Magazine/Child's Play
(212) 222-0120
www.childsplay.com
Playskool
www.hasbro.com/playskool
800-752-9755
Tonka
800-844-3733
www.hasbro/tonka
Learning Resources
(800) 222-3909
www.learningresources.com
LEGO Systems
(800) 453-4652
www.lego.com
Made By Hands
(773) 761-4200
www.made-by-hands.com
Maple Landmark
(800) 421-4223
www.maplelandmark.com
Marban Industries
(800) 959-8611
www.sentencesays.com
Matchbox
(800) 524-8697
www.matchbox.com
Mattel
(800) 524-8697
www.mattel.com
Melissa & Doug
(800) 284-3948
www.melissaand doug.com
Memcorp
(954) 660-7026
www.disneyelectronics.com
MGA Entertainment
(800) 222-4685
www.mgae.com
Mic-O-Mic Americas
(877) 642-6642
www.micamericas.com
Midway Games
(408) 473-9499
www.midway.com
M.O.G. Kids
(866) 664-7323
www.mogkids.com
Morning Star Games
(800) 304-4263
www.morningstargames.com
Ohio Art
(800) 800-3141
www.world-of-toys.com
Only Hearts Club
(805) 384-4800
www.onlyheartsclub.com
Oregon Scientific
(800) 853-8883
www.oregonscientific.com
Out Of The Box Publishing
(800) 540-2304
www.otb-games.com
Overbreak
(800) 799-5350
www.overbreak.com
Pacific Play Tents
(877) 722-0083
www.pacificplaytents.com
Play Along
(954) 956-2210
www.playalongtoys.com
Patch Products
(800) 524-4263
www.patchproducts.com
Pazow
(415) 885-5006
www.pazow.com
Radica USA
(800) 803-9611
www.radicagames.com
Radio Flyer
(800) 621-7613
www.radioflyer.com
RC2 Corporation
(800) 704
www.learningcurve.com
R&R Games
(888) 874-3353
www.rnrgames.com
Schylling
(800) 767-8697
www.schylling.com
Screenlife
(800) 383-4263
www.screenlifegames.com
Silver Dolphin Books
(800) 788-3123
www.silverdolphinbooks.com
Snap TV Games
(310) 828-1700
www.snaptvgames.com
Spin Master
(800) 622-8339
www.spinmaster.com
Story Reader
(800) 745-9299
www.pilbooks.com
Tangle
(888) 829-3808
www.tangletoys.com
Techno Source
(212) 929-5200
www.technosource.com
Tek Nek Toys
(888) 900-0155
www.teknektoys.com
Thames & Kosmos
(800) 587-2872
www.thamesandkosmos.com
ThinkFun
(800) 468-1864
www.thinkfun.com
Uncle Milton Industries
(800) 869-7555
www.unclemilton.com
USAopoly
(888) 876-7659
www.usaopoly.com
University Games
(415) 503.1600
www.universitygames.com
VTECH
(800) 521-2010
www.vtechkids.com
Warren Industries
(800) 447-2151
www.warrenindustries.com
Wild Planet
(800) 247-6570
www.wildplanet.com
Wizards of the Coast
(800) 324-6496
www.wizards.com
WizKids
(425) 641-2801
www.wizkidsgames.com
WowWee
(800) 310-3033
www.wowwee.com
Zapf Creation
(877) 629-9273
www.us.zapf-creation.com
Zobmondo!! Entertainment
(800) 417-0017
www.zobomondo.com
Zizzle
(847) 572-9300
www.zizzle.com

The National Toy Hall of Fame

at the Strong Museum - Rochester, NY

www.strongmuseum.org

Strong Museum, houses the world's largest (70,000+ items) and most comprehensive collection of toys and dolls. The hall serves as an interpretive gateway to Strong Museum's world-renowned collection and provides additional opportunities for both hands-on experiences and intergenerational memory sharing among guests.
The Strong Museum is also the home of the **National Toy Hall of Fame**.
This year, National Toy Hall of Fame® added these toys to its distingished list:

***Candy Land*®** - This classic Milton Bradley game is almost 60 years old and teaches not just learning colors, but life skills such as following directions and sportsmanship.
Jack-In-The-Box - The classic model, known most recently as playing Pop Goes the Wesel has been around since the 1700's deligting kids with is spectacular "surprise" of a clown jumping out from the trap door.
The Good Old Cardboard Box - Big boxes, especially those made to ship such things as stoves, refrigerators and large televisions, Though never intended as toys, boxes have always captured childrens' imaginations who've imagined and used them as fortresses, castles, space ships and other "make believe" enclosures for many decades; a most appropriate chioce.

In the past, the National Toy Hall of Fame® already included these 31 unforgettable honorees.

Alphabet Blocks
Barbie®
Bicycle
Checkers
Crayola® Crayons
Duncan® Yo-Yo
Erector® Set
Etch A Sketch®
Frisbee®
GI Joe®
Hula Hoop®
Jacks
Jigsaw Puzzles
Jump Ropes
LEGO®
Marbles
Monopoly®
Mr. Potato Head®
Play-Doh®
Radio Flyer® Wagon
Raggedy Ann(TM)
Rocking Horses
Roller Skates
Scrabble®
Silly Putty®
Slinky®
Teddy Bear
Tinkertoy®
Tonka® Trucks
View-Master®
Lincoln Logs®

The criteria for selecting toys for the National Toy Hall of Fame® are:
Icon-status: The toy is widely recognized, respected, and remembered.
Longevity: The toy is more than a passing fad and has enjoyed popularity over multiple generations.
Discovery: The toy fosters learning, creativity, or discovery through play.
Innovation: The toy profoundly changed play or toy design. A toy may be inducted on the basis of this criterion without necessarily having met all of the first three.

Anyone can nominate toys on site at Strong Museum, via the Internet, or by U.S. mail.
An internal museum Advisory Committee comprised of curators, educators, and historians, reviews the submitted nominations and determines which toys meet the criteria for selection. A National Selection Committee then reviews the list of toys that meet the criteria. Each National Selection Committee member votes for his or her top toy picks for induction. The votes are then tallied. The toys receiving the most votes making the cut for induction into the National Toy Hall of Fame®.
The Strong Museum, One Manhattan Square, Rochester, NY 14607 / www.strongmuseum.org / (585) 263-2700

Visit the Museum:
If you're travelling or vacationing in western New York State the Strong Museum is about an hour from Niagra Falls in the Buffalo area and two hours from the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TOY TEST

MY TOY SHOPPING LIST

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Name: _____
Boy _____ Girl _____ Age _____ Grade _____ Price Range $_____
Likes/dislikes: _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____
Possible Toy: _____ $ _____

Happy Holidays!